



**Message from Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr.**  
*Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs*

**DoD Coordination on National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza**

The Department of Defense is well poised to continue its partnership with other federal agencies to meet the objectives outlined in the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza outlined by the President this week.

Through our overseas surveillance network and laboratories we are well positioned to assist in stopping, slowing or otherwise limiting the spread of a pandemic to the United States. Current DoD activities have proven to be an integral component in our nations ability to monitor the progression of this disease. DoD is working with our Pacific partners to track and combat the spread of avian flu in areas where it is currently found.

Intensive interagency and internal coordination is leading to a cohesive pandemic plan which incorporates all of our robust activities to limit the domestic spread of a pandemic, and mitigate disease, suffering and death. Our acquisition of vaccine and antiviral medications helps ensure that our service members will remain healthy and our ability to protect the nation preserved. Planning at multiple levels assures a well-coordinated response to protect all beneficiaries.

Our plan for responding to avian flu includes efforts to preserve combat capabilities and readiness, save lives, and reduce human suffering for all service members and their families in the face of a pandemic of influenza. In addition, DoD is currently engaged with other U.S. Government agencies – including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Agriculture, USAID and the Department of State – to ensure an effective and coordinated approach to this potential public health and economic threat both domestically and abroad.

The DoD has a palate of unique capabilities that lend themselves well to sustaining the nations infrastructure. DoD assistance to civil authorities during recent natural disasters has demonstrated that, when directed, we are able to respond with a wide array of capabilities to support the nation during times of need.